



# DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION'S

## Economic Sustainability Plan Framework Study

### Community Meeting Summary - Round One

September 20, 2010 - Lodi/Stockton (Manlio Elementary School) - 6250 Scott Creek Dr. - 6-8:00 p.m.

The following meeting summary was from the third of five community meetings scheduled in the Delta to gather public input on the creation of the framework for the upcoming Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP). The Delta Protection Commission will complete the ESP by July 2011. The adopted plan will include information and recommendations that will be used for future planning efforts, including the Delta Stewardship Council's policies regarding the socioeconomic sustainability of the Delta region. The ESP will address multiple issues relating to the Delta's economic sustainability, including public safety and flood protection, recreation and tourism, agriculture and business, and infrastructure.

#### OVERVIEW

The community meeting was held in the multi-purpose room at the Manlio Silva Elementary School on Monday, September 20, 2010 from 6-8:00 p.m. Approximately 25 community members attended the meeting. DPC Staff and Commissioners Larry Ruhstaller and Bob Ferguson were in attendance, along with the ESP Framework planning team.

#### PRESENTATION

Mike Machado, Matt Kowta and Seann Rooney presented the project to the group, outlining past legislation (that calls for the preparation of the ESP) and the project timeline. Also reviewed were the role and history of the commission, the scope of the current planning effort and some preliminary economic data. The presentation was followed by a 45 minute discussion with participants. The discussion concluded and community members were encouraged to provide comments after the large group session. The event concluded at 8:00 p.m.

#### DISCUSSION

The following comments were offered during the large group discussion (and from three comment cards):

- What is the definition of Delta/Region?
- One participant was surprised with pie chart. AG output low? (4%)
- Data in plan should be current/valid - presenting misleading information. (ESP framework is focusing on factors)
- Sustainability - what is the definition? Water is key - no water, no sustainability. Not just maintaining status quo. Sustaining AG or "alternatives." New projects including industrial, commercial and residential.

### (Notes - Continued)

- Don't want burden of mitigation (E.G. habitat- maintain)
- Conversion to habitat takes tax base away
- Maximizing future economy is important
- Local economy is multiple sectors and many depend on each other in both primary zone and secondary zone
- Truckers, packers, shippers, growers, retailers and restaurants all depend on AG to survive
- No way to "make up" less water or poor water quality
- Cannot have a plan without historic information and understand how the system operates
- Delta is part of the state and "world" economy
- Need to increase current food supply (70% by 2050)
- Land needs to be protected
- Delta is a living being, can't just be a park
- Look at University of the Pacific economic forecast- use data and gather additional data
- Role of Ag is why you need levee maintenance
- Protect farmers (from trespassing to policy)
- Land use/urban growth
- Role of schools – educate, support/encourage agriculture
- New farmers replacing aging farmers
- Public access (different set of values/different users) - conflicts (trash, vandalism, encounters, etc..)
- Future right of way acquisitions will disrupt current uses (agriculture)
- Peripheral canal - expect to lose lots of acreage (estuary impacts)
- Water quantity affects quality
- Fragility of levees over-stated
- Funding availability key factor
- Ecological sustainability important part of economic sustainability
- Delta is unique ecological place (creates asset and income value)
- Agro-Ecology - can compare/analyze different areas
- Economic impact beyond primary/secondary zones, policies on ground-water (saline intrusion)
- Bring data up to date (problem with 5 counties compiled data)
- True cost of mitigation? (not just land acquisition)
- Cost/benefit analysis is needed (current and future uses)
- Evaluate financial plans (look at "other" plans)
- Pay up-front (no Government bailout) for mitigations, including maintenance, so that it doesn't become a public burden later
- UC Davis is working on Economic Plan (might have useful info)
- Billions spent on habitat restoration (water key to sustainability)
- Keep freshwater in the delta to maintain sustainability
- What is the cost of management - research North Delta Wildlife Refuge)
- UC Davis Research on Ag land out of production
- Attendance low at the meeting. More publicity (discussed outreach plan)
- Public use of waterways (don't block/need access)
- Oil/Gas should be considered (hasn't in past)
- What is the delta multiplier? Can we quantify it?



For more information on the Economic Sustainability Plan Framework Study please visit the Delta Protection Commission's website at [www.Delta.ca.gov](http://www.Delta.ca.gov). Meeting agendas (same for all five meetings), summaries, presentations and other information has been posted on the DPC website ([www.delta.ca.gov](http://www.delta.ca.gov)). Please contact DPC staff at (916) 776-2290 for more information.